

**Peaks Island Council
December 2013 Meeting Minutes **DRAFT****

**Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 6:30pm
MacVane Community Center**

Present: Jean Martens, Cheryl Miner (Chair), Mary Anne Mitchell, Marjorie Phyfe, Timothy Wyant

Others Present: Elizabeth Capone-Henriquez (Secretary), Mike Murray (Island Liaison)

I. Call to Order & Swearing in of New Councilors

Mike Murray, Island Liaison and Assistant City Clerk called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. **The following new councilors were sworn in by Murray: Jean Martens, Marjorie Phyfe, and Timothy Wyant.** Murray explained to them that as publicly elected officials, they are subject to right to know laws and public access laws.

II. Public Introductions

Members of the public in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Roll Call

Miner took roll call and shared the Peaks Island gavel, donated by Jane and Dave Adams.

IV. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was held for longtime islander AJ Alves who recently passed away.

V. Open PIC Seats

Phyfe suggested the PIC follow the process from last year in which anyone interested send a short letter about why they are interested to the PIC, come to next meeting and answer questions, and then the PIC vote. Lisa Penalver had sent a letter of intent prior to this meeting and shared some of her background and interest. Penalver has been on Peaks for 7 years, has a child in middle school who grow up on the island, and owns a home here. Penalver received questions from the PIC including topics such as public byways.

Phyfe moved that Penalver be appointed to the PIC. Martens seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Penalver was sworn in by Murray.

VI. City Email Addresses

Murray recommended PIC members use their city email accounts for PIC business. If using a personal account and conducting PIC business, Murray recommended putting "PIC" in the subject line.

VII. Election of 2014 Officers

Main duties of officers were reviewed. **Penalver moved that Cheryl Miner be elected Chair of the PIC. Phyfe seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Miner moved that Marjorie Phyfe be elected Vice Chair of the PIC. Penalver seconded and the motion passed unanimously.** The necessity of a Treasurer was discussed. **Wyant**

moved that the PIC does not need a Treasurer. Penavler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Review of Minutes

Miner moved that the October minutes be accepted as revised by PIC members. Mitchell seconded and the motion passed 4-0-2, with Wyant and Penalver abstaining.

IX. Review of Council Actions from last Year

Miner provided a thorough and detailed overview of items taken up by the PIC, and non-PIC major city project impacting the island, in the past year. Topics covered ranged from environmental, administrative, police/fire, public works, ferry passes, and recreation.

X. Action Item Follow-up: Leaf Dumping & Fire Resolution

Leaves: Murray spoke with Public Works and they recognize that there is a need to deal with how leaves and brush are disposed of on the island and they are looking into options for Spring. A member of the public noted that leaves are no longer being dumped in the area they had previously been dumped in. Fire Resolution: Miner will follow-up with Capone-Henriquez about format for letter to the City Manager for previously passed PIC fire resolution.

XI. Discussion of Priorities for Improving Island Life

Miner invited all present to write their top priority for the PIC in 2014 and place them in a box. Phyfe will draft the priorities and distribute them to the councilors. She will also draft wording for the question to be sent out to Peaks Island residents for input and circulate that among the councilors before sending out.

Miner proposed that the PIC have an evening "workshop" on January 8th for the Council to set their agenda for the year. In addition, this would be an opportunity for the Council to dialogue about its role and relationship to the Peaks Island Community. The public would be welcomed to attend as witnesses (not speaking).

Phyfe moved that the PIC hold an evening workshop on January 8th as outlined above. Lisa seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Miner will ask Denise Macaronas if the room is available.

XII. New Business/Announcements/Public Comment

There was a question from the public regarding the outcomes of an adhoc group of islanders who began a conversation about island sustainability last year. Capone-Henriquez shared that the group had not yet reconvened. Mitchell shared that there are openings for island fellows in the coming year, who could potentially facilitate such a process.

Portland Neighborhood Association

Mitchell reported on the last meeting of the Portland Neighborhood Association, which she attended. She requested more "Big Belly" solar trash compactors for Peaks Island, but there is not funding available for them in our location. Peaks Island residents should

know that there is free sand available during the winter at the Transfer Station. There was some conversation as to whether there is salt in the sand. Mitchell noted that residents can put their recyclables out in containers other than the standard recycle bin, but are requested not to put them only in paper bags, which can blow away. Residential recycle bins similar to garbage bins (with lids) will be tested soon in some Portland neighborhoods. Miner noted that only one or two leaf bags will be picked up at any location each week. Anyone with more than that should parse them out week by week, or take them to the Transfer Station. Wyant noted that a fascinating tour of how recyclables are handled can be accessed through ecomaine.org. Mitchell suggested that she either another councilor or Peaks Island resident accompany her to the various meetings she attends to learn about how things work. Wyant will attend the next Neighborhood Association Meeting with Mitchell next Tuesday. The topic is safety.

Maine Island Coalition

Mitchell also reported on the last meeting of the Maine Island Coalition, which meets 4 times a year. The topic was stores on islands: what works and what doesn't. The next meeting will be in Augusta with lawmakers. There was conversation about how our Island input helped sway the legislature to vote on studying ocean acidification.

Martens offered gratitude for the council, residents present and the larger Peaks Island Community.

XII. Next Meeting – Workshop Jan. 8 at 6:30pm; Meeting Jan. 22 at 6:30pm

X. Adjournment

Martens moved that the meeting be adjourned. Penalver seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

ACTION ITEMS:

Miner: Cheryl will follow-up with Capone-Henriquez about format for letter to the City Manager for previously passed PIC fire resolution. Cheryl will also ask Denise Macaronas if the room is available for the workshop on Jan. 8.

Phyfe: Marjorie will draft the priorities and distribute them to the councilors. She will also draft wording for the question to be sent out to Peaks Island residents for input and circulate that among the councilors before sending out.

Wyant: Timothy will attend the next Neighborhood Association Meeting with Mitchell next Tuesday.